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**COMMUNICATION OF 31 JULY 1996 RECEIVED FROM
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN TO
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

1. On 1 August 1996, the Secretariat of the IAEA received a communication of 31 July 1996 from the Resident Representative of Japan transmitting the text of a comment by the Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan in respect of the latest test of a nuclear weapon conducted by China and its announcement of a nuclear testing moratorium.
2. As requested by the Resident Representative of Japan, the comment of the Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan is being circulated for the information of Member States of the Agency.

TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE OF 29 JULY 1996

Comment by the Chief Cabinet Secretary on China's Nuclear Testing

1. It is extremely regrettable that the People's Republic of China conducted another nuclear test today, despite the repeated requests of the international community, including Japan, for the cessation of nuclear testing, and in the midst of the energetic effort made for the completion of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) negotiations, which are now in the final stage at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

2. China announced that it would observe a moratorium on nuclear testing effective from July 30. Japan earnestly hopes that China will make effort from an overall viewpoint for the early completion of the CTBT negotiations and for the promotion of nuclear disarmament aiming for a world free of nuclear weapons.

3. Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda will notify Chinese Ambassador Xu Dunxin to Japan of Japan's position as mentioned above on July 29, today.